

Use simple precautions while pumping gas

By Judd Anstey

Army and Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs Office

With the weather starting to get warmer, more Americans are hitting the roads exploring Europe. Operating service stations throughout military installations across Europe, The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, wants to remind all customers of the importance of avoiding potential problems with static electricity at the gas pump.

In many parts of the country, static electricity build-up is most likely to occur during the fall and winter months, when the air is cool or cold and dry — the typical climate conditions for static electricity buildup. Static electricity can build up when a motorist exits or re-enters the vehicle during fueling. Upon returning to the vehicle fill pipe during or at the end of refueling, the motorist may experience a static discharge at the fill point, which may cause a flash fire or small sustained fire with gasoline refueling vapors.

Static electricity-related fires have occurred at AAFES and other retail gasoline outlets. According to the American Petroleum Institute and the Petroleum Equipment Institute, such incidents are on the increase. To date, over 150 incidents have been re-

ported to PEI that have resulted in numerous injuries, property damage and a fatality.

The most effective means by which a motorist can avoid static electricity problems at the gas pump is to stay outside the vehicle while refueling. It may be very tempting to get back in the car, especially during cold or rainy weather, but the average fill-up only takes around two minutes and staying outside the vehicle will greatly minimize the likelihood of any build-up of static electricity that could happen at the nozzle.

In the rare event a motorist does experience a fire while refueling, it's important to remember to leave the nozzle in the fill pipe of your vehicle and back away from it. Immediately notify the station attendant to shut off all dispensing devices and pumps with emergency controls. If the facility is unattended, then use the emergency shutdown button to shut off the pump and use the emergency intercom to summon help. Leaving the pump nozzle in the vehicle will prevent any fire from becoming more dangerous. Motorists who feel the need to get back into their vehicle during refueling should discharge any static buildup upon exiting the car before going back to the pump nozzle. This can be done safely by touching a metal part of the vehicle, such as the door, or some other metal surface,

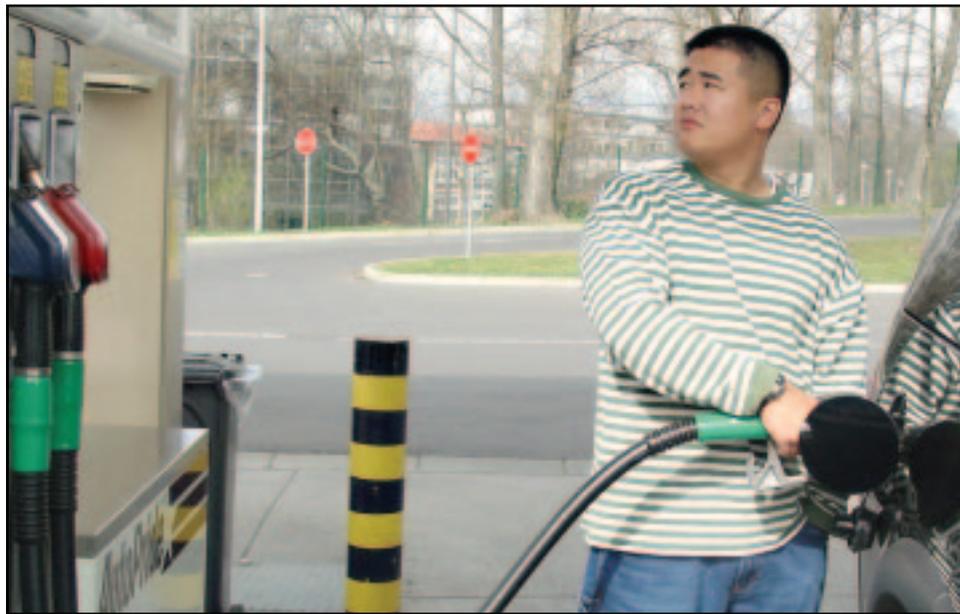


Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Sgt. Christopher Nguyen, a percussionist with the 1st Armored Division Band, fills his gas tank at the Hainerberg Army and Air Force Shoppette. AAFES officials are asking customers to take extra precautions while pumping gas to reduce static electricity that could spark a fire.

with a bare hand.

AAFES customers can minimize these and other potential fueling hazards by following safe refueling procedures all year long. For more information on avoiding potential prob-

lems with static electricity build-up at the pump, and other safe motor fuel refueling, storage and handling guidelines see API's website at www.api.org/consumer or PEI's website at www.pei.org/static.

Safe fueling tips for consumers

American Petroleum Institute and the Petroleum Equipment Institute have provided the following consumer refueling and fuel safety guidelines that will help keep you and your family safe when refueling your vehicle or filling up gasoline storage containers:

* Turn off your vehicle engine while refueling. Put your vehicle in park and/or set the emergency brake. Turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as a camper or trailer heater, cooking units or pilot lights.

* Do not smoke, light matches or lighters while refueling at the pump or when using gasoline anywhere else.

* Use only the refueling latch provided on the gasoline dispenser nozzle; never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open.

* Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling.

* In the unlikely event a static-caused fire occurs when refueling, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the station attendant immediately.



* Do not over-fill or top-off your vehicle tank, which can cause gasoline spillage.

* Avoid prolonged breathing of gasoline vapors. Use gasoline only in open areas that get plenty of fresh air. Keep your face away from the nozzle or container opening.

* When d i s - p e n s - i n g g a s o - l i n e i n t o a c o n - t a i n e r , u s e o n l y a n a p -

proved portable container and place it on the ground when refueling to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Containers should never be filled while inside a vehicle or its trunk, the bed of a pickup truck or the floor of a trailer.

* Only store gasoline in approved containers as required by federal or state authorities. Never store gasoline in glass or any other unapproved containers.

* When filling a portable container, manually control the nozzle valve throughout the filling process. Fill a portable container slowly to decrease the chance of static electric-

ity buildup and minimize spilling or splattering.

* Fill container no more than 95 percent full to allow for expansion.

* Place cap tightly on the container after filling - do not use containers that do not seal properly.

* If gasoline spills on the container, make sure that it has evaporated before you place the container in your vehicle. Report spills to the attendant.

* When transporting gasoline in a portable container make sure it is secured against tipping and sliding, and never leave it in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.

* Never siphon gasoline by mouth or put gasoline in your mouth for any reason. Gasoline can be harmful or fatal if swallowed. If someone swallows gasoline, do not induce vomiting. Contact a doctor immediately.

* Keep gasoline away from your eyes and skin; it may cause irritation. Remove gasoline-soaked clothing immediately.

* Use gasoline as a motor fuel only. Never use gasoline to wash your hands or as a cleaning solvent.

* And finally, do not to use cell phones or smoke while refueling your vehicle.



Photo courtesy of 1st Armored Division Public Affairs

1st AD re-enlistment

Lt. Col. Mark Olinger (left), 1st Armored Division logistics officer, re-enlists Staff Sgt. Tim Himburg, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st AD, Feb. 22, at the Crossed Sabers in Baghdad, Iraq. Assisting are other members of the G4 team — Sgt. Maj. Glenn Gibbs and Sgt. 1st Class Benny Valdez.



Photo by Charlie Fontana

'Elephant Man' at Playhouse

Scientist Dr. Treves, portrayed by Skot Davis, is beguiled by Mrs. Kendal, played by Bobbie Lording, in the Amelia Earhart Playhouse production of the Tony Award-winning drama, "The Elephant Man." Performances run Wednesday through Saturday, March 31 through April 10. Ticket reservations can be made by calling the Playhouse at mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Program aids special needs

By **Christine Carruthers**
Exceptional Family Member
Program coordinator

As the Month of the Military Child approaches it's important to remember a program available to families with special needs.

The Exceptional Family Member Program works with both military and civilian agencies to provide communication, education, medical, housing and personnel services to military family members with special needs.

An EFMP is a family member (child or adult) of an active duty, Reserve or National Guard Soldier with any physical, emotional, developmental or intellectual disorder that limits the individual's capacity to engage in pursuits with peers or requires special treatment, therapy, education, training or counseling. Possible conditions for enrollment in EFMP can include serious allergies, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, developmental delays, speech, language, hearing or visual impairment, behavioral issues, physical disabilities or mental health disorders. In order to qualify for EFMP a screening must be completed by the EFMP

nurse at your local health clinic.

Enrollment in the program is mandatory for Soldiers with a family member with special needs. Failure to enroll in the program can result in disciplinary action taken against the Soldier. Once a family member is in the program, enrollment will continue until medical or special education needs are found to no longer warrant enrollment. Enrollment must be updated every three years or when there is a significant change in diagnosis.

EFMP originated in 1981 with the passage of Public Law 94-142. This law entitles handicapped children to free education and all medically related services in pursuit of an education. The Department of Defense responded by directing the Department of Defense Dependents Schools and military medical departments to provide services to school-age children with special education needs.

EFMP has evolved into a "tracking system" for the military to identify family members who have medical and educational needs. This also assists the military personnel system when making duty assignments

so a family will be assigned to a location where needed medical or educational facilities/programs are available.

The Exceptional Family Member Program at Army Community Service in Wiesbaden is available to answer any questions regarding enrollment or checking the status of an EFMP enrollment. For more information call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754.

Currently the Family Advocacy Program and EFMP are seeking emergency placement and respite care providers.

Emergency placement provides interim care for children removed from the home due to abuse, neglect or other family emergencies. Respite Care provides a temporary rest period for family members responsible for the regular care of children/adults with disabilities.

Training will be held March 31 through April 2. Anyone interested in training or becoming emergency placement/respite care providers should call the EFMP or FAP offices at the numbers above for more information.

Training is free.

Counseling center open

By **Cassandra Kardeke**
221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office

Training the trainer just got easier for chaplains at Wiesbaden Army Airfield with the opening of the Family Life Center March 17.

"The Family Life Center provides a platform for relationship counseling, counselor training for unit chaplains and key leaders as well as family education," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Tidball. Equipped with two counseling rooms, an observation room with one-way mirrors and a resource room, the \$45,000 project has been a goal of Tidball's since his arrival in the 221st Base Support Battalion last year.

"Not only does this facility offer counseling services to the community it is also one of the very few facilities in Europe that serves as a training facility with observation for our counselors," said Chaplain (Capt.) Layden Colby, 221st BSB family life chaplain. The center is also an effort to help connect counseling agencies throughout the BSB and promote a local professional counselors network.

"We hope to see an increased video monitoring system and the ability to connect families with people and services offered throughout the

community," said Colby. Colby's intent is to connect with other counselors within the community and have the ability to offer referral services to any one needing it.

"The Chaplain's Family Life Center has at its core a belief in God and in the relationships all people have as divine creations. We desire to strengthen and nurture these relationships while being sensitive to individual expressions of faith. While prayer, Scripture, and spiritual guidance will be offered, they will never be forced," said Tidball.

Although walk-in counseling is provided, individuals, families or couples can make an appointment for guidance by calling mil 337-6867 or civ (0611) 705-6867.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Chaplain (Capt.) Layden Colby (right) points out the necessities of having a resource room available to the community at the new Family Life Center which opened March 17 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Massage services in Dexheim

Freiya Osterwald gives a free chair massage to Pvt. 2 Lydia Ortiz, Company D, 123rd Main Support Battalion, at the Anderson Barracks Fitness Center during the grand opening of the new Massage Therapy Room. Having opened up earlier this month, Osterwald's appointments are filling up fast. "I have even begun to see regular customers returning two and three times for massages," she said. Osterwald offers several massage services including Swedish massage, pre- and post-natal massage, aromatherapy and a new type of massage, lymphatic drainage massage. To schedule an appointment call civ (0179) 903 6996 or mil 334-5746.

Re-employment rights available for reservists

By 1st Lt. Shane McCormick
Wiesbaden Legal Center

One of the most critical issues for the demobilizing reserve component Soldier is his or her return to a civilian job. Reserve component Soldiers need to understand the rights provided in the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

When returning from active military duty in excess of 180 days, Soldiers must re-apply for re-employment to their previous civilian employer within 90 days of release from active duty (or up to two years if hospitalized or convalescing from a service-

connected injury). Soldiers must re-apply sooner if activated for less than 180 days.

It is recommended that Soldiers notify the employer and the employer's personnel or human resource office by letter sent registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. If notification is not done within the time limit, the job is not automatically forfeited, but the Soldier is then subject to the employer's rules covering unexcused absences. In addition, re-apply sooner if reinstatement of your employer's health care coverage is wanted.

Employers can refuse to re-employ an activated reservist under certain conditions. When changes in the employer's circum-

stances make re-employment impossible or unreasonable; required qualification efforts and disability qualifications will cause the employer undue hardship or if the employment was for a brief non-recurrent period and there was no reasonable expectation that it would continue indefinitely or for a significant period (temporary or seasonal employees).

Except for service-connected disabilities, the "USERRA escalator" principle requires that a returning reservist step back into the "seniority escalator" at the point that reservist would have occupied had he or she remained continuously employed (as if he or

she hadn't been activated). If the reservist served for more than 90 continuous days of active duty, the employer has the option of offering the reservist a job with equivalent seniority, status, and pay instead of the position the service member would have held if continuously employed.

Reservists preparing for demobilizing should read up on USERRA and ensure they know their rights before returning home. Information can be found at www.osc.gov/userra.htm, www.esgr.com/employers/thelaw.asp or at www.dol.gov/elaws/userraOhtm. More information can also be found at your local legal office.

AFN partners with DoDDS to provide training

Photo and story by
Pat Ridge
Department of Defense
Dependent Schools

Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Europe and American Forces Network-Europe officially formed a partnership to help provide training for high school students in audio/visual technology and broadcasting.

The official signing of the agreement held March 19 at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School formalizes years of cooperation between the two agencies to provide real world experiences for students.

Through the former Cooperative Work Experience class and other courses in the vocational education arena, AFN has traditionally offered opportunities for students in DoDDS-E high schools to experience the world of broadcast journalism. DoDDS has recently revised the former vocational education program and developed a program in Professional Technical Studies to reflect the abilities and skills needed for students to be successful in a quickly changing work environment.

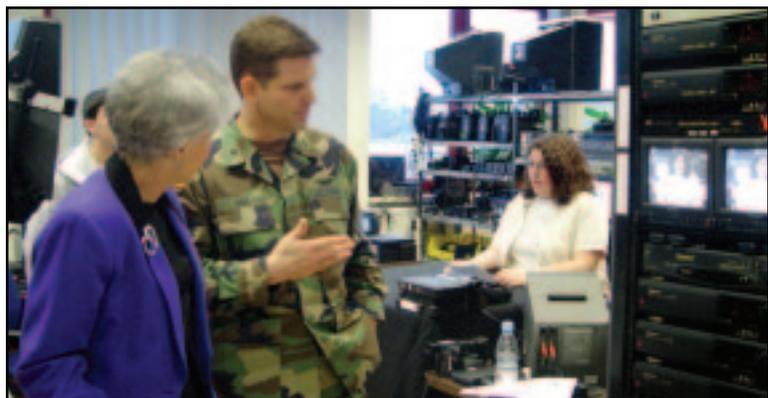
DoDDS-Europe is in the process of implementing the new PTS

programs in all of its high schools to offer advanced career-oriented learning opportunities to students. The PTS Video Communications Pathway is comprised of four new courses that focus on the range of skills related to the field of audio/video technologies as well as journalism and broadcasting. Students can enroll in a career practicum and possibly intern at an AFN affiliate.

The major emphasis of the partnership will include AFN affiliate stations to work with Video Communications Programs in nearby DoDD schools and provide training and mentoring for students and teachers in order to increase their professional technical skills. The ultimate goal is for students to produce high quality video programs such as public service announcements, sports reports, school news and host nation history, which will be broadcast on AFN to the local military communities.

Highly qualified DoDDS students who have demonstrated mastery of the Video Communications Course Standards will be given an opportunity to apply for AFN internship positions at nearby affiliate stations. Students will intern in a work placement that will offer them on-the-job training and "real world" career experiences. AFNHQ will be encouraging local affiliate personnel to provide ongoing mentoring and training for students and teachers in the context of on-site visits to schools. AFN reporters will work with students to teach production techniques in order for students to produce school related stories for broadcast on school and local channels.

This broad agreement between DoDDS-Europe and AFNEurope will provide a strong motivation for local DoDDS Europe communications teachers and AFN personnel to work closely together to structure a program that will be of mutual benefit to both organizations, officials said.



Diana Ohman, DoDDS-Europe director, and Lt. Col. Rick Sims, AFN-Europe commander, discuss the agreement between the two organizations while Gen. H. H. Arnold High School junior, Michelle Cohen, records the school's "Morning Program" in the background.

Community news notes

Call for volunteers

Everyone is invited to the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 28 at the Community Activity Center at 6 p.m. Reservations for the ceremony must be made by April 14 by calling mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754. Onsite child care will be provided if reserved in advance. All volunteers within the community should ensure they are registered with the Volunteer Office at Army Community Service.

Alcohol screening

In conjunction with Alcohol Awareness Month, a free alcohol screening for Soldiers, family members and civilians will be held April 6-7 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Building 1526 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Education and information packets regarding alcohol use and its affects on health and medication will also be provided. For more information call mil 337-6958 or civ (0611) 705-6958.

AFTB for youth

The Army Family Team Building program offers classes and workshops for youth. Upcoming classes include Stress Management and Adapting to Change, Personality Types and Self-Esteem and Life Skills. Classes are limited to 15 students and are offered at Army Community Service, Room 22 after school. To sign up or for more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

Train ride

Join the German-American friendship club, Kontakt, for a steam train ride into May. This German May Day event takes participants on a historic steam train ride into the Taunus Mountains April 30 from the Dotzheim train station at 7 p.m. and returns approximately at midnight. Reservations are required by April 2. Tickets are €14 for adults, and €7 for children. To reserve a seat on the train call the 221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 337-5772, civ (0611) 705-5772 or (0160) 655 5976.

Outdoor Rec tours

Join Wiesbaden and Dexheim's Adventure Experts at Outdoor Recreation for ice skating, skiing and bicycling throughout the month of April. They also have weekly rock climbing and bouldering trips. For more information or to sign up for a trip call mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760.

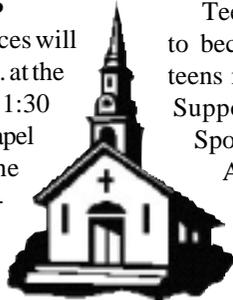
Sports physicals

In conjunction with the

Wiesbaden Health Clinic, Child and Youth Services sponsor a free sports and immunization clinic April 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Youth Sports Gym in Hainerberg Housing. Parents must be present with their child and should bring their yellow shot record. Children must be over 5 years old.

Lent services

Palm Sunday services will be held April 4 at 9 a.m. at the Hainerberg Chapel, 11:30 a.m. at the Dexheim Chapel and at 5 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday services will be held April 8, 9 and 10 at the Hainerberg Chapel at 6:30 p.m. each day. Easter Sunday services will be held April 11 at 9 a.m. at the Hainerberg Chapel, 11:30 a.m. at the Dexheim Chapel and at 5 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel.



Welcome briefing

Newcomers to Wiesbaden are encouraged to attend Army Family Team Building's Welcome to Wiesbaden classes held the first and third Monday of each month at the Newcomer's Information Center in Room 240 at the American Arms Hotel. Call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754 for more information and to register.

Tax assistance

The Tax Assistance Center is available for all Soldiers, civilians and family members to help prepare 2003 taxes. Located at Heer Strasse 31 in Building 1255, the Tax Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. The office is closed daily from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch. For more information call civ (0611) 705-6506.

Spouse and family member inprocessing

As soon as the jet lag is over, sign up for the new spouse and family member inprocessing training with the 221st Base Support Battalion. Learn about services and activities available throughout the community and life while in Germany every Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754 to sign up.

Holocaust trip

The Team 221st Community Special Emphasis Committee will hold a trip to the Buchenwald Concentration Camp Memorial April 17 in honor of the Days of Remem-

brance. Admission is free. The bus leaves at 8 a.m. and people are welcome to follow in their own vehicles. The camp is in Weimar about three and half hours away. Call Sgt. 1st Class Ames at mil 337-5897 or Pia Morales at mil 337-5034 for details.

Teen sponsor classes

Teens in grades 6-12 are needed to become ambassadors to other teens moving into the 221st Base Support Battalion area. Youth Sponsorship training is held at Army Community Service, Building 7790, Room 22 from 3:30-5 p.m. May 5, July 7, Sept. 8 and Nov. 10. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Training offered

Team 221st Army Community Service offers Emergency Placement and Respite Care training March 31 through April 2. Emergency Placement providers are needed for interim care for children removed from a home due to an emergency. Respite care providers provide a temporary rest period for family members who care for children/adults with disabilities. To sign up for this free training call ACS at mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754.

Massages available

Massages by a certified massage therapist are available at the Community Activities Center and Tony Bass Fitness Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. To schedule an appointment call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943. Massages are also available at Dexheim Fitness Center. For an appointment call civ (06133) 925 558.

Dining facilities open

The Dexheim and Wackernheim Dining Facilities are now open for all meals. Dexheim DFAC serves breakfast from 7-8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., dinner from 4:30-6 p.m. and brunch during weekends from 10:30 a.m. to noon and dinner from 4-5:30 p.m. McCully DFAC serves breakfast from 7:30-9 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., dinner from 4:30-6 p.m. and brunch during weekends from 10 a.m. to noon and dinner from 1-3 p.m.

PWOC meetings

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-11:30 a.m. Thursdays at the Hainerberg Chapel.

Veteran briefings

The Army Career and Alumni program offers information on a

wide variety of veteran's benefits available to Soldiers and their family members. Upcoming briefings will be held in Wiesbaden April 6, May 19, June 3, June 24, July 21, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9. Call the ACAP office at mil 337-5709 or civ (0611) 705-5709 to sign up.

German mail

The German Post Office at Wiesbaden Army Airfield is open Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Breastfeeding support

La Leche League is an international organization dedicated to helping mothers meet their own breastfeeding goals through mother-to-mother support and information. The Rhein Main area LLL meets the fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at the USO Cottage in Hainerberg Housing. Call civ (06134) 188 825 for more information. Mothers with their nursing babies and mothers-to-be are always welcome.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the BOSS Center, Building 1052 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Family room

The Tony Bass Fitness Center now offers a family fitness room fully equipped with treadmills, elliptical trainers and stationary bikes as well as a television, DVD player, tables, chairs and mats for the kids. Bring your own movies and fun

activities for the kids while you do your workout. Movie donations are also welcome.

Bridge players needed

Duplicate bridge players are invited to compete with the American Contract Bridge League every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Wiesbaden bridge club house at Marktplatz 13. The club is located across the street from the Marktplatz church. For more information call mil 337-5190 or civ (0611) 307 834.

Stress management

Wiesbaden's Social Work Services hosts stress management workshops at Army Community Services, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing, April 14 and 28 from 3-4:30 in Room 22. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

Seeing eye-to-eye

Learn skills for effective talking, listening, conflict resolution and anger management to help you and your partner build a more satisfying relationship. Couple Communication workshops will be held at Army Community Services, Building 7790, Room 23, in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5297 or civ (0611) 705-5297.

Trainers available

Personal trainers are available at the Tony Bass and Dexheim Fitness Centers to help customize a personalized fitness program. Cost is \$35 per session. Call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Cultivate youth

Celebrate the Month of the Military Child with keepsakes from Arts and Crafts during the month of April. Bring in your child's artwork to be framed and receive 10 percent off. Help bring out the creator in your little one by registering for any of the following classes. All classes are from 2-4 p.m. and you must register the Wednesday before.

- * April 9, Kids Easter Egg Painting, \$2 per child per egg
- * April 16, Foil Tooling, \$2 per child per project
- * April 22, Cross Stitch, \$5
- * April 23, Tye-Dye Shirts, \$5 a project
- * April 30, Sand Art, \$2 per project.

For more call mil 485-6687.

Free fitness day

Spouse Appreciation Day at Rolling Hills Athletic Club is April 4 from noon to 5 p.m.

You get unlimited access to the fitness center (cardio room, weight room, aerobics room), whirlpools and saunas, and U. S. Army Europe's only indoor swimming pool. In addition personal trainers will instruct you on Cybex, Life circuit, Stairmaster and Nautilus equipment. For more information call mil 485-6165.

Just for teens

Boredom is not an option during spring break. Youth Services has the following events planned throughout the week.

- * April 6, roller skating and Vogelweh Exchange
- * April 7, Holiday Park Hassloch
- * April 8, Bitburg Air Base and swimming
- * April 9, cookout at the Underground.

For more information call mil 485-6968/7276.

Buccaneer Night

Buccaneer Night, Baumholder American High School's annual college scholarship fund-raiser begins at 5:30 p.m. April 23 at the Rheinlander Convention Center. It will be a pirate-style evening of fun, food, entertainment and raffles. There will be a theme basket auction and silent auction for various sports memorabilia beginning at 8 p.m.

Baumholder community organizations and individuals are invited to donate theme baskets for the auction. Basket donors may contact Kathy Madison at civ 186 463 or by email at jmadison47@aol.com

There will be children's games, face painting and the Whopper Hopper will be available for children to let off steam.

Sports officials

The Baumholder Sports Office

Post notes



Photos by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Girls take over retreat

Girl Scouts Natalie Opliger (left) and Raechel Inbody, cadettes from Troop 077, assist Sgt. Andy Cramer Von Clausbach fold the U.S. flag after a retreat ceremony at the 222nd Base Support Battalion headquarters. Photo right: two Girl Scouts control traffic during the retreat ceremony. The girls took over the daily retreat ceremony as part of Girl Scout Week which culminated with a celebration at the Girl Scout Hut. Baumholder Girl Scouts will hold a bridging ceremony April 24 from 1-3 p.m. at the Neubrücke Youth Center. The ceremony celebrates the growth of the Girl Scout. All bridging girls who complete the requirements for their level of bridging will receive the bridging badge. Brownies ready to bridge will also receive wings. All scouts will receive a membership pin.



is looking for officials for all sporting events. For more information call the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176.

Let's volley

Baumholder Community League Volleyball is set and spiked and ready to go. The following play dates are scheduled.

- * April 3 at Heidelberg
- * April 17 at Darmstadt
- * April 24 at Baumholder
- * May 1 at Spangdahlem
- * May 8 at Mannheim.

TIPOSH online

Annual refresher Training In the Prevention of Sexual Harassment is now available online and must be completed by March 31. This training is only for persons who have already taken the basic TIPOSH here in Baumholder. This is manda-

tory yearly training. New employees or those employees/supervisors who have not taken TIPOSH must take the Basic TIPOSH in a classroom setting.

Suicide hotline

If challenges in your life are getting to be more than you can handle, you are not alone. Help is available by calling the suicide hotline. You can speak to a community chaplain directly by phone. There is no middle-person and everything is kept confidential.

The suicide hotline numbers are: mil 1988 (no prefix) or civ (06783) 999-2977.

Easter hunt, brunch

Baumholder celebrates Easter with a free Easter egg hunt April 11 at the Rheinlander and Iron Soldier Park fields starting at 12:15 p.m.

Children age 1-3 will have their hunt at the Rheinlander field. Children age 4-12 should go to the Iron Soldier field. For more information call Child Youth Services at mil 485-7003.

The Rheinlander will also offer a Sunday brunch April 11 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by reservation only. The cost for adults is \$12.40. Children age 10-15 pay \$9. Children age 6-9 will be charged \$6. There is no charge for children age 5 and under.

There will also be a variety of other activities for children age 2-10 at the Rheinlander from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. that day.

Volunteers sought

Youth Services seeks volunteers, youth and adults, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting/recreational events. For more

information contact your local youth center or visit Baumholder's youth website at www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm.

Youth clubs

Torch Club

Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 11-13. A Torch Club is a vehicle through which club staff can help meet the special needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development. Torch Club members learn to elect officers and work together to plan and implement activities in areas like service to club and community, education, health and fitness and social recreation.

Keystone Club

Keystoning is the boys and girls movement's most dynamic teen program. Keystone Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls age 14-18. Keystoners elect officers and plan and implement their own activities in six areas that cover service to club and community, leadership development, education and career exploration, unity, free enterprise and social recreation. Keystone Club members and their advisors are eligible for nomination to steering committees which organize regional and national Teen Supreme Keystone Conferences attended by thousands of Keystoners each year.

Teen Sports Club

The Teen Sports Club is a teen leadership group that promotes health, fitness and sports related careers in boys and girls clubs. Members meet on a regular basis to learn about issues inside and outside their club related to sports and fitness. Club members age 13-18 volunteer at least 25 hours as referees, coaches, or in other athletic department support roles. Club leaders can attend Sports Leadership Camps in each of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's five regions after completing their 25 volunteer hours.

For more information contact your local youth center.

Ballet classes

Ballet classes are available for children age 3-18. The cost is \$15 for a 30 minute class for children 3-4 years old and \$30 for an hour class for children 5 and older. For more information call mil 485-7003/7276. All participants must be registered with Child Youth Services.

Instructors

Youth Services is always looking for qualified instructors to contract in instructional areas such as martial arts, gymnastics, music, tennis and more. For more information call mil 485-7276.

CSM says she's proud to serve with 'very best'

By **Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 90th Personnel Service Battalion were among the first to return to Baumholder from Iraq. The remainder of the unit trickled in throughout the following weeks, and because Soldiers of the 90th PSB are assigned to Baumholder and the Kaiserslautern military community, their welcome home ceremony was held at Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern March 16.

After the ceremony Command Sgt. Major Divina Bobb gathered the Soldiers and thanked them for all their efforts during their 371-day deployment.

"Thank you so much for all your support," she said. "The colonel (Lt. Col. John D. Pauge, commander, 90th PSB) and I are so proud of you guys. We kept that promise. You all remember before we took off we went to each one of the communities, the 510th PSB and 90th PSB and we talked to your family members (those that attended) and we promised that we would bring you back safely. If it wasn't for your support that would have been hard to do," she said.

Visibly glad to be back herself, Divina peppered her speech with the occasional "Hooah."

"We left as a team, we came back as a team. I think you all agree, and your family members will agree, you came back a better person," she added.

"You all were good when you left, you're even better now. That's because of your hard work and your endurance," said Bobb.

She then turned her focus to the family members who stayed behind.

"Now," she told the Soldiers, "you all need to go back and make sure you tell your family members you really appreciate all their support because I know for a fact that if it wasn't for them supporting you, you would have had a hard time lasting that year."

Before releasing them for block leave, she said, "I'm proud to be your sergeant major

and I'd do it again if we got called upon. You all have a safe trip back; enjoy your leave, Hooah."

The deployed Soldiers included members of the 90th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment; Detachments A, B and C 90th PSB; 510th PSB and the 90th Postal Detachment.

During its 371 days of deployment the battalion covered a lot of sand. "We started off in Camp Virginia, Kuwait," said Bobb.

From there some of the battalion's elements moved to Bushmaster, Iraq, and then to Dogwood and eventually to Baghdad International Airport and Anaconda. "Some of our forces were in Kirkuk and in Mosul, so we were all over the place," said Bobb. The headquarters itself was finally stationed in Anaconda.

The battalion was responsible for personnel services, postal and casualty liaison. They also augmented the award cell for CJTF7, the

R and R program and the redeployment cell.

Despite having been all over the Iraqi map, the unit was very fortunate in that they suffered no casualties. "All of our soldiers came back, every one of them. We had no serious injuries. We were very fortunate, no deaths, they all came back," said Bobb.

She summed up her 371 days in Iraq by saying, "This has been a very rewarding experience and I was fortunate enough to work with some of the very best."



Command Sgt. Major Divina Bobb of the 90th Personnel Service Battalion talks to Soldiers immediately after their welcome home ceremony March 16 at Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment Soldiers present arms during their welcome home ceremony. Photo right: Not even Lt. Col. John D. Pauge, 90th PSB commander, can escape the needle of Spc. Ryan Robnett at the reintegration facility as he donates a blood sample.

Free meal is an expression of gratitude

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs office

A cornucopia of calories, a veritable feast, was served to members of the 222nd Base Support Battalion March 2 when Sheila Willis showed up with a free meal for everyone in the building. On the menu were generous portions of turkey, roast, chicken with noodles, smoked sausage with baked beans, corn on the cob, collard greens, string beans, rice, cake and pie.

Totally unsolicited, Willis decided to cook an entire meal for the 222nd BSB. "I just wanted to express my gratitude. A lot of things have happened since the guys have been gone and I just wanted to do something nice," said Willis.

"I do it for the company once or twice a month, but I've also done it when my husband and I have been stationed at other places. I just enjoy cooking, and I love to see people eat," she said. Her husband, Sgt. Jack Mathew Willis Jr., is a member of Company C, 1-6th Infantry.

Cooking is no chore for Willis. "My husband says it always amazes him how much food I can cook. When I was growing up we always cooked and there were always people in our house eating. My mother and my grandmother used to say that's the best way to express your feelings and gratitude — to feed people."

But this military wife is not just a good cook. She is a patriot who's heart and soul brim with military tradition.

She has nine brothers who either are still in the military or are retired. "I have one brother, who,



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd BSB commander, surveys the free banquet cooked up by Sheila Willis. Not only was the food free, the delivery was also at no cost to community members.

we don't know what he was thinking — he went in the Navy. There are five that are retired, two who are still in (the Army), the one in the Navy and one in the Marines," she said.

Being a military wife and the American patriot that she is, 9/11 had a real impact on her life.

"I had a half brother and also a couple of friends who were killed in the Pentagon during 9/11. It didn't affect my way of thinking as far as the military, but it did make me think about the safety of

my country," she said.

"As Americans, we kind of get complacent because those type of things don't always happen." Having been born and raised in Washington, D.C., Willis knows that one of the things you see when you enter Washington coming from Virginia, is the Pentagon. "It's this big beautiful white building. When my husband and I went home to Washington, D.C., after serving in Kosovo, we went there to visit. We stopped and we couldn't believe that there was this big hole. It was

a big missing part of the Pentagon. It kind of woke me up to the fact that we can't take life for granted," she said.

"I couldn't believe that they did that but I didn't feel hatred. I felt hurt and I felt like there was an invasion." Growing up, Willis never worried about terrorism. "We never even talked about it. I grew up in the '50s so that was like, terrorism? What? What's that? That wasn't something that we thought about.

"I have six grandkids, though, and trying to explain to them why the people did what they did has been kind of hard, you know, because they're children. They don't really understand. When they see these kids from Afghanistan or Baghdad, that don't really have a home or have lost family members, they are really hurt for them because they don't have what they have," she said.

Her husband, who is currently deployed to Iraq, also served in Desert Storm and is always on the move. "Wherever we have been assigned, as soon as we hit the three month mark he's gone, so she says she is definitely looking forward to his return.

"I know probably he'll have to go somewhere else down the line, or whatever, but this is the life that we chose," she said.

Willis said her husband tells her his job in Iraq is a hard one, but when he sees how the Iraqi children and even the adults want something as simple as an MRE, that really gets to him and makes him do his job. "It gives him the motivation to do his job, to help them. At first he couldn't understand. But he says some of the people are very nice

and a lot of them do want them there. So when he hears that from them and he sees their gratitude, he says that gives him the motivation to do his job, even though it's hard," she said.

Speaking about the military in general Willis said, "Sometimes he says he doesn't want to continue, especially when things don't go right, but we try not to look at the bad parts. I mean it's not an easy job. I don't do his job. I just try to make our home life easier for him in order for him to do his job."

Naturally, Willis knows firsthand that life in the military can be hard and demanding at times, but she says, "My husband could never tell you what I don't like about the military because I never tell him. I never express that. I keep it to myself. And it's not that much that I don't like. There are things that get on my nerves, but nothing that I could say that I hate it because I don't. I really cannot say that. I know there are a lot of people who don't like it but I don't feel that way.

"I also know a lot of people don't like Baumholder," she said. But for Willis, being in the military and being stationed in Baumholder is what you make of it. To me, when you think of it in such a negative way, that makes it that much more stressful. It has its pluses and its minuses, but I don't focus on the minuses, and I think if men and women were to do that they wouldn't have the attitudes that they do. I really believe that. It's a good organization, and personally, I don't see anything wrong with it. It's what you make it."

And making the most of it is what Willis does best, by feeding people.

DIVARTY interrogator works behind the scenes in Iraq

Story and photo by Staff
Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

Being able to gather information that helps prevent terrorist attacks against the Iraqi people or coalition forces provides a military intelligence Soldier with the motivation to continually improve.

Working behind the scenes, Spc. Daemon Lowell, 22, who calls Virginia Beach home, is a human intelligence collector, more commonly known as an interrogator, assigned to the 1st Armored Division Artillery Combat Team.

Lowell is one of several interrogators assisting Soldiers and paratroopers assigned to the DCT with information needed for their missions in southern Baghdad.

Lowell said his ability to speak fluent Arabic is very useful in certain situations.

"When I want to get a special point across I don't want the interpreter to have to speak for me," he said.

Because words have greater impact coming from the original source, Lowell said a detainee hearing interrogators speaking Arabic does several things.

"First, it shocks them when they realize that everything they have said to the interpreter was understood by the interrogator — especially when the detainee asks the 'Terp' for help," he said.

"Secondly, when trying to gain the trust of the detainee so that he will trust my word and give me information, speaking Arabic makes him



Spc. Daemon Lowell conducts preventive maintenance checks on his section's vehicle.

lower his guard, because I am not as strange to him anymore."

Although Lowell does not accompany his comrades on operations, his commitment to the mission is just as intense as any infantryman or artilleryman walking the streets of Baghdad, he said.

"The most satisfying part of my job would have to be when a prisoner starts telling all, and I am able to report that information and we are able to capture other criminals," he said. "I get such a great feeling inside when people are captured who are trying to halt the progress and development of Iraq and kill my fellow Soldiers."

Lowell said his good feelings are multiplied when information that he has gathered prevents a terrorist incident or leads to the apprehension of additional insurgents.

The only downside to his job is filling out the stacks of paperwork required after each interrogation, he said. "The reports are not particularly difficult, but they are tedious and tiresome," said the three-year Army veteran.

Based on his observations of detainees, "bad guys" come from all segments of Iraqi society.

"I have seen people from every walk of life — from the inordinately wealthy businessman to the average Joe and even an insane man," he said.

However the detainee's human rights are respected — no matter his or her station in life, he said. The tone of the interrogation depends on the detainee's attitude.

"If they are cooperative and don't give me a hard time, I am a very friendly person," he said. "If they decide that they want to play games, well, we play games too."

Lowell said he gets up every morning knowing he is doing his best to serve his country to the utmost of his ability.

Co. C, 2-6th Infantry Soldiers return home

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
Affairs Office

Exactly a year and one day after departing for Iraq, Company C, 2-6th Infantry, is back in Baumholder. Charlie Company was the first large contingent of Soldiers to depart for Iraq in March of last year and the first large group to return.

The company arrived at Ramstein Air Base during the early hours of March 18. After retrieving their equipment they were bused to Baumholder where a welcome ceremony awaited them.

Unlike previous deployments, they were not turned loose to fend for themselves and put their military and personal affairs in order before going on block leave. Instead all Soldiers began a regimented seven-day reintegration process that includes everything from medical processing to the collection of household goods.

This new concept ensures all Soldiers complete all their required tasks before going on block leave.

The process also puts heavy emphasis on reintegrating the Soldiers with their families and into the community. Returning from a lengthy deployment such as this one can be a stressful time for the family and the Soldier, therefore, much emphasis is being placed in harmoniously reuniting family and Soldier.

The benefits from this new concept are many, and everyone is a beneficiary.

First and foremost it benefits the Soldier. All agencies involved with reintegrating the returning Soldier have been consolidated in one facility — the reintegration facility. This makes it easier for the Soldier to accomplish tasks such as vehicle registration, medical screenings, legal assistance and the like.

Before this new process was established a Soldier requiring legal assistance made his way to the legal office located on the outskirts of Smith Barracks behind all of 2nd Brigade's major facilities. If the next stop was vehicle registration, it involved a trip that included traversing the length of Smith Barracks, leaving the post, passing the Provost Marshal's Office and entering Quartermaster Kaserne. The new concept puts these two agencies just steps away from one another, a process that is repeated time and again with other agencies in the reintegration facility.

For commanders, the process is an invaluable management tool. It helps track all reintegration requirements and ensures Soldiers do not "fall through the cracks."

"Taking care of all the Soldier's needs and requirements up front helps us avoid potential problems further down the road," said Lt. Col. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander. "When the Soldier completes his reintegration he is ready for block leave, and when he returns he is prepared to continue his training, maintain his equipment and prepare for any possible future contingency," he said.

"We are laying the foundation for this concept and hopefully, future commanders and Soldiers will also be able to reap its benefits," said Buchs.



Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Spc. Daniel J. Eckert, Company C, 2-6th Infantry, and fellow Soldiers leave Baumholder's Hall Champions after the welcome home ceremony. Photo below: Soldiers and family members reunite after a year's absence.

